

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Sept. 25- Oct. 9, 2017, Year 24, Issue 18
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 777-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com

Bringing Them Back
See page 5





The ravages that Hurricanes Irma, Jose and Maria caused in the northern Caribbean is enormous. The damage is estimated at millions, food and drink is scarce and thousands of residents have lost everything.

Under the name 'Bonaire for the Windward Islands / Boneiru pa Islariba', the people of Bonaire joined hands with St. Maarten, Saba and Statia (SSS Islands) to consolidate all initiatives, collections and efforts made to help the these hurricane damaged islands. It's a citizens' initiative in collaboration with the Bonaire Red Cross, the Bonaire Island Government and the NGO Platform Bonaire. The goal is to collect as much money as possible for the SSS islands.

On Saturday evening, September 16th, Coco Beach held a spectacular evening-filled program with live music and focus on the SSS islands' situation. As a result \$76,000 was handed over to the Red Cross.

Dozens of individual and corporate contributions have been made to the Red Cross account as well. Bonaire families are sharing their homes with hurricane victims. Some Bonaireans have even managed to get to St. Maarten to help physically. If you want to contribute here is Red Cross Bonaire's Account information: **P.O. Box 90, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire), Account #41385602, Swiftcode (BIC): MCBKBQBN.** Please add a note that it is "Ayuda pa Isla Ariba," help for the Windward Islands



Royal Caribbean visits

►Expect more cruise ships in the coming weeks as well as next season as a result of

the hurricane damage to the islands in the northern Caribbean and the cruise ships seeking alternative ports. Schedules published in every edition of *The Reporter*,

►Bonaire Regatta 2017, the 50th annual event, is shaping up to be a great happening with lots of activities besides the sailing.

Regatta t-shirts are again for sale, this year available in pink, red and blue. There will be a Kids Corner – *Kinderhoek*— with fair-ground attractions and many other activities for children from two to 13. A \$10 ticket allows the kids to spend three hours in all the attractions and games until 5pm, and it includes a drink and chips. On Saturday the Kids Corner is also open from 9am until noon.

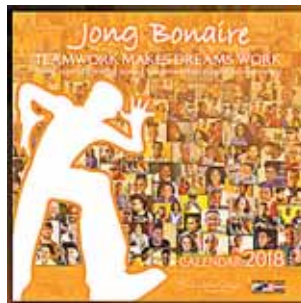
On September 20th there was a meeting at SKAL with representatives of different nationalities on Bonaire to talk about participation in the Parade of Nations.

For further information email to: info@regattabonaire.com. You can also visit the official Regatta website: www.regattabonaire.com.

►Bonaire welcomed major European tour operator, **Corendon**, which plans to fill 60 seats weekly on the KLM flight to Bonaire. In November it will boost it to 100 per week. Corendon officials recently spent three days on the island receiving VIP treatment. Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) would like to thank all the partners who have cooperated with the familiarization trip. Special thank yous to Eden Beach Resort, FBTT/Jentis Tours, Sebastian's restaurant, Delfins Resort, Rancho Washikemba and The Mangrove Center.

►The Jong Bonaire calendar for 2018 illustrates how teamwork makes dreams happen. The illustrations in the new calendar shows its young people in the various sporting activities that Jong Bonaire offers in its after-school program.

The calendar is an important fundraising project and Jong Bonaire counts on your enthusiastic orders. The calendars will be available in late September or early October.



The price per calendar is \$12.99 with discounts for the purchase of 25 calendars or more. Contact Angeline van Mildert at ecre-taresse@jongbonaire.org.

►More flights, but fewer passengers departed or arrived in Bonaire in the second quarter of 2017. There were 5,190 commercial flights from and to the Caribbean Netherlands in this quarter, most to/from Bonaire. Compared to the same quarter last year this is an increase of 5.7%. While Bonaire saw an increase of 7.6% in flights, the number of arriving and departing passengers declined by 7.1%.

About 76,600 passengers flew from and to Bonaire in the second quarter. The origin or destination was Curaçao for 50% of the passengers. Amsterdam ranked second with 24%.

It is remarkable to note the increase in the value of goods the Caribbean Netherlands imported by air: a total of \$6.5 million. Compared to a year earlier this is an increase of nearly 39%.

►When a man dropped off by a water taxi on a Saturday afternoon at Klein Bonaire with other tourists did not appear for pickup at the scheduled time to be picked up, a search was begun using STINAPA and Coast Guard resources, including a helicopter. Nothing was found until the next day, Sunday, the 17th when his lifeless body was found on the north side. The person was identified as a Dutchman, P.J.E. born on May 4, 1970. The authorities are now currently investigating the circumstances of his death.

►In addition to donkeys on Bonaire roads drivers will now have to be alert for zebras. Eleven zebra stripe crossings will

be put on the pavement at key crossings in the busy areas, including MCB Hato, Pelican School, Papa Cornes / Mentor, Tung Fong Store, SGB, MCB Playa, St. Bernard's roundabout, the post office, van der Tweel roundabout and the Colegio Kristu Bon Wardador school. Most existing zebra-stripes are barely visible. The new material to be used by the Elite Safety & Infrastructure Company is



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durable and not just yellow paint. This is part of a new Island Government initiative to improve road and street safety.

Also the Kaya Pos di Amor and a part of the Kaya Nikiboko North from the Kaya Pos di Amor to the intersection with Kaminda Yato Bako and the Kaya Macario St. Jago will be restored. The work will start on Monday, September 25. Two weeks after Kaya Pos di Amor has started the Kaya Nikiboko North project will be begun. The restoration work at Kaya Pos di Amor should take four weeks and Kaya Nikiboko North four and a half weeks.

Traffic warning signs will be placed at Aquamarijn school, the Lanlan Clarendia Park, Tronco Snack, the MMM and at the Less Indian sports ground.

Deputy James Kroon, in announcing the work said, "This island government is making efforts to get more funds available to do more work on the recovery of our roads and streets that have not received the attention they deserve since mid-2015."

► **The unregulated growth of billboards along the roads of Bonaire is disturbing.** There seem to be no standards and maintenance is lacking. Most locals and visitors agree that they detract from the beauty of Bonaire. **If you agree tell**
(Continued on page 13)



Hurricane Medical Airlift

Bonaire's Fundashon Mariadal (San Francisco Hospital) provided medical airlift between the Windward (SSS) and Leeward (ABC) Islands just hours after category 5 -hurricane Irma struck the Windward islands of Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius. The Sint Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) requested transfer of its critical patients. Subsequently Saba and Sint Eustatius Health Care Foundations also requested air transportation for their pregnant women with increased risk, to Aruba, Bonaire or Curaçao.

This resulted in cooperation never seen before between the hospitals of the six Caribbean islands of the Dutch Kingdom. Fast action was needed because Hurricanes José and Maria were following the same path.

Fundashon Mariadal has integrated Emergency Room, Ambulance and Air Ambulance and has a contract with Medic Air that includes a fully medically-equipped Learjet 35. Medic Air supplies the pilots and the Fundashon Mariadal provides the medical crew and has access to a wide network of other air ambulance providers in the region which enabled rapid setup of the airlift service. Operationally, the airlift team based at Bonaire International Airport (BIA), consisted of three air ambulances, 10 pilots and the needed medical crews with Fundashon Mariadal personnel. After delivering patients to Curaçao or Aruba, Bonaire is revisited for refueling and, if needed, pilot changes after which the plane flies back to the Windward Islands.

A few hours after the medical airlift was operational, the Sint Elisabeth Hospital

(Sehos) on Curaçao and the Horacio Oduber Hospital (HOH) contacted the SMMC to offer help. The SMMC indicated that it was necessary to relocate all its 62 dialysis patients by air transport. In addition Kingdom Representative Gilbert Isabella arranged through the Defense Ministry to bring SSS dialysis patients to Aruba. Within an hour, after consultation between the ZVK and VWS in The Hague, the decision was made to fly the dialysis patients from Sint Maarten to Aruba. Another decision allowed airlifting all critical patients by air ambulance planes to Curaçao and Bonaire.

By the first weekend following the storm, the medical airlift served 83 windward patients needing hospitalization. The ZVK on Bonaire provided guarantee letters for all the patients transported, including those of the country of St. Maarten, in order to facilitate their internalization and medical treatments on the ABC-islands. The ZVK also took care of all the logistics concerning the travel of accompanying persons and also for the patients who don't require hospitalization. Bonaire itself received five patients – among them three French speaking persons – during the first days of the airlift operation for: pregnancy, hip fractures, dialysis and epilepsy. A patient from Sint Maarten, with an eye injury, was sent to Curaçao.

By then Aruba was sheltering, in the HOH, 62 dialysis patients (34 on Friday and 28 on Sat-



Learjet air ambulance at Flamingo Airport

urday) and also two pregnant women, of which one gave birth.

Ten of the above-mentioned dialysis patients were subsequently relocated to Bonaire. All the dialysis centers are performing an additional shift to accommodate the patients from Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius. The SMMC sent dialysis nurses to Aruba to reinforce the dialysis team there. Four dialysis nurses are on their way to Bonaire to assist the dialysis team there.

Curaçao took in 14 acute patients during the first days of the medical airlift. One was placed immediately in intensive care and two were placed on nursing departments after their operations.

There is a child from Sint Eustatius among these patients who suffered a neurotrauma and was flown by helicopter from Sint Eustatius to the airport on the island of Sint Kitts where a 'wing-to-wing' transfer brought this patient to the air ambulance plane from Bonaire to get the child to Curaçao's Sehos.

The relief operation has been ongoing since Thursday, September 7, and will continue daily as long as the Windward Islands need it.

■ Press release/ G.D.

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IS SUNSCREEN A THREAT TO BONAIRE'S REEFS?

Scientists have been researching the harmful effects of sunscreen on corals for more than a decade. The most leading scientist in this area of research, is **Dr. Craig Downs, Executive Director, Haereticus Environmental Laboratory (HEL), Virginia USA**, who has focused his scientific research on **Oxybenzone; a UV filter used in many sunscreens**. Craig Downs' research has led to a dedicated community movement in Hawaii that has been raising awareness and that has also been advocating legislation to ban sunscreens with oxybenzone on Hawaii.

The threat that sunscreens containing Oxybenzone form to our reefs on Bonaire is very complex, but the solution can be quite simple.

The reality of today is that our reefs face many threats, such as climate change and the subsequent increase of water temperatures, and water pollution through sewage and sedimentation. In most cases, global environmental issues need global solutions. However, water pollution by sunscreens with Oxybenzone, is a global issue that can actually be solved locally. According to **Dutch scientist Diana Slijkerman of Wageningen Marine Research**, getting rid of harmful sunscreens on Bonaire is "totally do-able."

The Effects of Oxybenzone

The UV filter Oxybenzone impacts the coral in various ways, thereby affecting the corals' natural integrity to withstand other pressures such as climate change, because it:

- Acts as a hormone disruptor and harms or kill coral larvae by inducing deformities;
- Induces DNA damage and viral infections;
- Bio-accumulates in coral tissue;
- May enhance coral bleaching.

In laymen terms this means that sunscreens containing Oxybenzone cause irreversible damage to corals in general, but are specifically life threatening to juvenile corals.

Research of Harmful Effects of Sunscreen on Bonaire

Recent studies done by Dr. Slijkerman) also showed that Oxybenzone can be found on Bonaire. She studied the potential risks of Oxybenzone and three other UV-filters and has specifically looked at the concentrations in Sorobon, the nearby mangrove and Lac Cai, and estimated the risk of the actual concentrations towards the nursery areas in the surroundings. **Contrary to three years ago, Bonaire now receives cruise ships all year round. Cruise ship tourists visit Sorobon with increasing frequency, resulting in a large increase in sunbathers. Consequently, these sunbathers increase the risk of sunscreen with potentially damaging UV filters ending up in the water of the Lac Bay area.** The risk assessment performed shows that the environmental risk and potential effects resulting from this emerging pollution cannot be denied, especially in the scope of increasing tourism. Dr. Slijkerman concludes that it would be wise to take precautionary measures to prevent future environmental effects.

What Can We Do to Preserve Our Reefs on Bonaire?

Bonaire is not the first to acknowledge the harmful effects of Oxybenzone in sunscreen products and hopefully not the last. Hawaii has paved the way for Bonaire and we can learn from the steps that they have taken to educate tourists and inhabitants. There are simple steps you can take to make a difference and safeguard coral reefs on Bonaire:

Do not use sunscreens with Oxybenzone.

Inform yourself and read the ingredient list; look for Oxybenzone, also known as benzophenone3 (or BP-3). *Note: Manufacturers can make false claims, promoting their sunscreens as reef safe products. If sunscreens do contain Oxybenzone they are NOT reef friendly!*

Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before entering the water, this way the sunscreen has time to be absorbed into the skin, which decreases the wash off fraction when entering the water.



Prefer lotions over spray cans. Aerosol spreads sunscreen much further so that it is able to form a film (thin layer) on the water surface;

Avoid SPF above 50 (SPF 50 blocks 98% of UV rays, SPF 100 blocks 99%) SPF 30 to SPF 50 should provide adequate protection when used correctly. Sunscreens with higher SPF contain many more chemicals than lower SPF, but only offer a minimal increase in UV-protection.

Wear protective clothing instead, such as long sleeved wet shirts (rashguards) and hats to protect against the sun. Clothes have their own UV protection rating, called UPF. Synthetic fabrics have a higher UPF than cotton fabric, especially when wet.

Next steps for Bonaire

Boneiru Duradero and Wageningen Marine Research, with the support of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature in the Netherlands, are going to organize a seminar on the harmful effects of sunscreens containing Oxybenzone early next year. Lead speakers at this event are Dr. Craig Downs (HEL) and Dr. Diana Slijkerman (WUR), who will share their scientific research with participants.

The first goal of this seminar is to create island-wide awareness about the possible threats to our reefs caused by sunscreens with Oxybenzone. The second goal is to unite all resellers of sunscreen products on Bonaire in a common goal to only sell sunscreens that are FREE of Oxybenzone. Bonaire's economy largely depends on healthy coral reefs and therefore it is not unreasonable to expect local businesses and inhabitants of Bonaire to contribute to pro-actively solve this potential problem. The hope is that this initiative will be carried forward by other islands in the region.

■ *Diana Slijkerman of Wageningen Marine Research / Sharon Bol.*

See the following links to published articles on this topic, to learn more:

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2017/06/20/Scientists-probe-role-of-sunscreen-in-accelerating-coral-reef-decline/2541497963509/

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/is-sunscreen-bad-for-the-environment-runoff-may-be-killing-coral-reefs-188394/>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/your-sunscreen-may-be-killing-coral-reefs-heres-list-eco-friendly-products-2538493>

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In Hartsdale, NY

Charlotte Quincoses of Hollywood, FL, left, and Kayley You Mak, of San Francisco, CA, pose with the March 9, 2015 issue of *The Bonaire Reporter* at the Hartsdale (NY) Metro North train station.

Kayley is a Biology major, and her friend, Charlotte, is a Psychology major at Barnard College in New York City. They were visiting Joan and Alan Zale, who Kayley had met in Bonaire while studying on her semester abroad at the CIEE in February 2015.

It was the beginning of multiple friendships, that all started with *The Bonaire Reporter*. All this shows why you should always take a copy of *The Reporter* with you because it will help you make lasting friendships and give you a chance at fame and fortune. ■



Photo by Alan Zale

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Bonaire has a renowned marine heritage in ship building, navigation and fishing. The “Boto di Piskado,” or “Fishing Boats” were beautiful sail boats that would take a week off from fishing to join the races of the Regatta. As the sails were replaced by motors, this cultural icon began to fade with only the yearly Regatta to sail in.

As a group of passionate, dedicated and committed volunteers and collaborators alike, we have been investing time, labor and financial means to bring this extreme “Boto di Piskado” sport, back to life. To gain proper momentum in realizing this visionary project, they need your valuable commitment and support.

The goals of the Historical Sailing Boat Project are:

- Maintain this important aspect of Bonaire culture
- Safeguard this extreme sport and the bizarre skills required to sail them;
- Locate, negotiate, mobilize, restore or fabricate hull, mast, rigging, weights and sails;
- Promote sailing and educate the local community of all ages in areas related to design restoration, construction, maintenance, navigation and racing.
- Improve the infrastructure for storing and launching the boats.

The “Boto di Piskado” restoration team wrote, “The first stage is underway in a fury of collecting and restoring the boats. Only a strong ‘Yes, I can’ attitude will lead us to the finish line with at least four restored vessels, for the 50th Regatta, next month.

To ensure a future for the restored boats, the next race is already scheduled to be in December 2017, where more restored boats will debut. In following years, there will be quarterly races planned to continue the momentum. The development of necessary infrastructure, maintenance programs and educational programs will also be paramount to the sustainability. Beyond our initial goals, we would like to engage and stimulate our regional neighbors to join and embrace their traditions and race with us.

This project will be branded through social media, local, regional and international press followed by a documentary, giving wide and long-term exposure to



Using modern methods for restoration

our valued sponsors. The first peek at our project can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/234431330> A project with such historical magnitude has many aspects which require the financial, material and service support of passionately driven citizens, friends and corporate Bonaire. We kindly request the



I can do the job!

opportunity to personally discuss this project with you at your earliest and see how your passion can add to the momentum. We are looking forward to a long and fruitful partnership in this program. “

To find out how to donate send a short email message to sponsor@historicalsailingboatbonaire.com for more details. Lara Chirino/G.D.

Alan & Jane's Legacy



Stephen Rosario presented Jane and Alan an up-to-date diorama of the Kralendijk waterfront

Bonaire’s most loved and best known Americans, Alan Gross and Jane Townsend, are returning to the US because of concern for Alan’s health. Their contributions to the island cannot be overstated.

Against long odds Alan and Jane not only revived and innovated Jong Bonaire, bringing it to the amazing after-school function it is now, but also:

- Inaugurated *Tene Boneiru Limpi*, to make Bonaire even cleaner
- Formulated the Red Cross disaster plan,
- Anonymously sponsoring and financially aided local entrepreneurs and the less fortunate,
- Pioneered the NGO Platform,
- Alerted local government to the importance of keeping Sunset Beach open to residents,
- Helped the *Turtuganan di Boneiru* snorkeling program,
- Advised the TCB with marketing and statistical reports,
- Sponsored the publication of the Papiamentu-English dictionary and much, much more.

Their efforts were noticed by the crown; they were knighted by the Queen (Order of Orange-Nassau) for their services to the community in 2006.

Most recently they, along with co-founder Rene Hakkenberg, were honored by having the central area of Jong Bonaire named after them, “Plaza Alan, Jane i René.”

Just before flying off last Saturday Alan posted a farewell on Facebook:

Na tur di nos amigunan i konosodnan di Boneiru. Nos ta hopi tristu pa bandona Boneiru i asina tantu hende ku nos a topa durante nos bintisinku ana bibiendo na nos isla stima. Masha danki pa tur kos. Alan ku Jane”

Translating: “To all our friends and acquaintances on Bonaire. We are very sad to leave Bonaire and the so many people we met during our 25 years on our beloved island. Thank you for everything. Alan and Jane.”

This prompted an avalanche of comments:

Ludo Nicolaas --*Alan i Jane, semper ora di tuma despedida ta un momentu tristu. Partikularmente ora ta trata hende ku bo tin hopi apresio pa nan. Den e kaso aki dos hende ku a komprometé nan mes ku nos komunidad i semper tabata kla pa yuda nos organisashonnan ...*

René Hakkenberg-- I don't know of anybody that has done more for the island in the time that you were here than you two! Hope you can still visit again in the future, but in any case the Dutch queen has acknowledged your contribution and you have an official square, Plaza, named after you! What an accomplishment! And it was a pleasure working with you.

Wilma Böhm-Sandig --Thank you for everything. *Nos ta stima boso!*

Irene Mercx --So sorry to read this news, about you leaving Bonaire! Wishing you and Jane so much good and happiness. “Thank you” is not enough for the good you have done for Bonaire and its people. The hearts you've touched will travel with you wherever you go. God's speed and love....

Ann Phelan-- Gratitude our paths crossed in life! You were instrumental in bringing the first PWA event to Bonaire.

Patrice Rannou --All the best and thank you for all I have learned from you and everything you have taught to many.

Jt Emers-de Vries --It is a pleasure and a great privilege to have known you. Bonaire will forever be grateful for all you've done for its people. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Celia Fernandes Pedra-- A truckload of thanks to you for your friendship and for what you have done for Bonaire. You are the best examples of how immigrants can contribute in a positive way and with respect to our multicultural society. Much love to you.

George and Laura DeSalvo—You helped make our lives and those around us better, set an example of generosity and showed that patience and understanding can bring large rewards. ■ G./L. D.



On the Island Since... 2012 – Moises Ceras Bautista

A Bonaire Reporter regular feature since 2001



Moises Ceras Bautista Greta Kooistra photo

“I was born in Chaclacayo, Peru. It’s about 30 kilometers from the Lima city center, but where Lima has foggy and chilly winter months, Chaclacayo has sun and moderate temperatures all year round. I have one brother who studies for the Merchant Marine at the University in Lima, and my mom is in Peru as well. She does catering. With the help of my parents who supported me financially, I studied at the Columbia Institute in Lima for three years to become a chef. Then, my father, who had moved to Bonaire in 2006 to work in construction, contacted the owner of a Peruvian restaurant on Bonaire and she signed up so I could come here.

I felt sad to leave my country and my family, but I was also excited and eager to get more experience and to introduce and promote our Peruvian dishes in other parts of the world. And of course I was very happy to be with my dad again.

I was 21 when I arrived here. In Lima it had been my responsibility to take care of my brother as my mother had also gone abroad to work in Panama, but when she came back I left for Bonaire not long after.

In Peru life is good. Gastronomically it’s booming and the economy is doing well, but to be able to get to know different people and another country and to make a little more money and fulfill my dreams this is a wonderful opportunity. I want to get a lot more experience and travel and hopefully, one day, I will be able to open my own restaurant, because food is my passion.

From the time I was very little, my grandmother on my mother’s side would always take me into her kitchen so I could help her. She had a small take-out business from her house. Because of the love she put into her cooking and the love and affection she gave me, I loved to cook with her. She taught me traditional krioयो dishes like **ceviche**, **causa** (a potato-based dish with lemon and yellow garlic which you can fill with chicken, tuna or sea fruit), **anticuchos** (beef heart skewers), **papa a la huancaína** (Potatoes Huancayo style), **Lomito Saltado** (stir-fried tenderloin strips - an extremely popular fusion dish that mixes the Chinese stir-fry tradition with Peruvian ingredients) and then of course the **Peruvian soups** and the **chupes** (stews).

Without having studied, my grandmother knew how to make them all. She used a lot of picante. Her food was hot and spicy and she used to say ‘a ceviche is not Peruvian if it isn’t picante!’ Nowadays our food is also fusion food: Pre-Inca and Inca with African, Asian, Italian, French and British influences and Paellas from Spain. Peruvian food is among the most varied and best in the world. I feel sad my grandmother isn’t here anymore to taste the food I’m cooking now, because she passed away when I was 15.

On Bonaire I started out helping the chef, but now I am the chef. I learned to cook local food like **kabritu stoba** and **karko** as well. I have a very good memory for my clients. Many times when they arrive, they call me and put their thumbs up and tell my colleagues in the restaurant ‘Okay! The chef knows what I want!’ I know how everybody likes their food and between the clients and us there is a good understanding and the appreciation and satisfaction is mutual. Here, at the Tasty Bar and Steakhouse Restaurant in Kaya Grandi, we get many American and European clients, but we also get Venezuelans, Colombians and Antillean people who like my cooking because it is fresh, well presented and it has great taste!

Ceviche is originally a dish from the old days. The fishermen would clean the fish, put the lemon and the red onion and it wouldn’t need salt as the fish came straight from the sea. One day an Antillean friend came to the restaurant to order a ceviche to take out for the next day. I told him ‘No!’ You see, we never make it ahead of time, not even one hour or 10 minutes. The fish is ‘cooked’ in the lemon between the kitchen and the table where it’s served. Here on Bonaire I prefer dorado – mahi mahi - but we also use wahoo; it depends on the catch of the day.

Knowing so many people on the island, I feel good here. I live with my father who is in his late 40s. On Sundays we go together to the beach where we cook, or sometimes we go for a drive. I like Bonaire as it is quiet and it has a beautiful sea and so many different beaches all around. Also, it gave me the chance to help my family financially. The people here are very nice

and respectful, and I like the way they greet you in the street.

I’m not looking to have a family of my own yet. It’s very expensive, maybe later. I am young – I am 27 – and I want to take my time. My life is tranquil; I do my bank stuff, work, stay at home, look at the internet or Netflix and I visit my friends. Recently I started taking English classes with Jeroen Seegers, twice a week for one hour. I really need to do it, because Spanish alone is not enough. I don’t like to spend my money on drinks or stuff like that, but when I see a kitchen utensil I like, I buy it. In Lima I have a great collection of knives.

I have lots of friends— Antillean, American, Venezuelan, Colombian, Peruvian and Dutch— and many of them are colleagues from other restaurants. I love to go to Ronnie’s gym - at HFC. He is a good friend of mine. I work out every morning for one hour, also to see people and get to know more people. Many of my friends I met at HFC.



Moises with Jaidy Rojas (owner of the Tasty Bar and Steakhouse) and wait staff Emelyn (left) and Veronica Greta Kooistra photo



Moises and his dad Ruben Tasty photo

I have a scooter and for me, that’s enough to go places and get to work. I had a bicycle for three years, so this is much better, but my goal is to own a pick-up

mountain range of the Andes with its fresh produce and the animals. My heart lies there. Around Lima there’s not much left. Nature has been destroyed and it’s all businesses, factories and buildings. However, the village where my dad comes from, Huancavelica, is still pure with incredible vegetation and fields full of corn, wheat and potatoes. And there are cows and horses and rivers, beautiful! One day I hope to build my own wooden house and spend time there, getting inspired by nature, far away from the world.

But for now I am content with my life. My next goal is to have my mom come for vacation to Bonaire. She has never been here and neither has my brother. I was very lucky to get the opportunity to come to Bonaire. I know many people in Peru who would like to go abroad and experience what life is like there. I learned the value of the effort my parents made to put me through school and get me here, and I matured and kept my feet on the ground. I use the strength of youth to work hard. I feel happy; I’m doing what I like best and I have not disappointed my parents. I would like to express my great love for this island; it has given me so much, for besides making money it gave me the opportunity to grow and to be someone in life.”

Story by Greta Kooistra



“ I like Bonaire as it is quiet and it has a beautiful sea and so many different beaches all around. .”

some time later. I also help my mom financially by paying for my brother’s studies. And I’m saving what I can to open my own business in the future. Or maybe one day I will go back to Peru to study nutrition. I am still not a chef with a capital C because of a lack of experience and you need to have a lot of it, but I am on my way! I’m also buying the products I work with— the meat, the fish, the vegetables and fruits and herbs and spices— and they have to be fresh and in good condition and by taking care of that as well, I gain more experience too. Every week I shop for three days. The fish we always buy from Nachi in North di Salina or from Jan Hendrik Emerenciana, a fisherman in Playa. I work nine hours per day, but I could work more. I am really strong and healthy - thank God- and I love to work! I wouldn’t mind working seven days a week!

What I miss from Peru is the Andean music, the wind instruments, and I miss el campo – the land at the foothills of the

Helmets



This is the 31st of a series of Bonaire Reporter short articles by Jan Brouwer, about helmets and helmet awareness.

Bonaire/Antriol-

Six years ago my son died. He ran his long board down the paved hills of Sabadeco and he crashed. He was not wearing a helmet.

And I did not think about a helmet either. We both did some fine adjustment to the bearings of the board to enable it to roll faster. Nine months later his best friend died. He drove his moped down the road from Republiek to Kralendijk. That day was his father's birthday. My son's best friend was at the wrong time at the wrong place. He crashed, he did not wear a helmet, he died...

This year, sometime in February, a youngster drove his motorcycle in the Sabadeco area. A crash. He died...

There are still no laws yet on the island of Bonaire. Laws about wearing a safety belt, laws about wearing a helmet. On a free and liberal and happy island we do not need that many laws. We just need to be aware...

For years, every time I saw a person in the island traffic on wheels, without wearing a helmet, I said: "He's gonna die..." Then, by the time and by the influence of my girlfriend I changed the phrase into: "He is on his way to the shop." (To buy a helmet/jb) or: "The shops are closed now." The choice of the expression depended on the hour of the day.



On Thursday, August 24th, I parked my truck in the parking lot of the supermarket next to "I+1 Bar-Restaurant". A gentleman came out of the supermarket with some groceries. His scooter was parked next to my car and I noticed a pair of clear safety glasses and a helmet. I grabbed my camera and I jumped out of my car. I asked the gentleman for permission to shoot a picture of him and his helmet. I explained about the helmet awareness and immediately he understood my mission.

A gentleman on a red scooter, wearing a helmet, clear eye protection, a shirt, and closed shoes! Thank you for sitting for the picture and congratulations for every day of your life! Smart guy.

Just realize and be aware: a helmet does not make you smarter but it can keep you as smart as you are for a longer period of time. Do grab that helmet. You and your head are worth it!

■ Jan Brouwer



Interview With A Dutch Artist



"Winter in Amsterdam"

Rietje Smal will come to Bonaire in October and she will bring with her some artwork. Bon Bida gym and Fysio will receive her paintings for an exposition starting October 7. The paintings can be seen by anyone who has an interest, admission is completely free. Just walk in and look!

Who is this artist?

Rietje grew up between the chickens and the cows on the edge of the Veluwe, a part of Holland with lots of nature and a national park. Her parents taught her to love and to respect everything that lives, grows and flourishes. She's lived 43 years with her husband in the small village of Stoutenburg in the province of Utrecht. She works as a Human Resources Consultant at the National organization for Cultural Heritage. She says, "This work also has influenced me. Every human being has his own story of life. These stories always captivate me. I believe that, just as you see in nature, everyone that you give loving attention to grows and flourishes. My life motto is: 'Dare to live your dreams.' When you see my paintings, I hope they give you the impression of my way of living."

When did you start painting?

I started painting four years ago. My great love was seriously ill and in painting I found distraction and relaxation. I took classes and got more and more fun out of it. I took painting lessons with Latent Talent, Wim van Veelen and a master class from the great Sam Drukker. I still take classes at Evelien Kooloos and abstract painting by Rolina van Vliet. At the Academy I take art history classes. During my work I regularly get in touch with the art treasures of the cultural heritage of the Netherlands.

Where do you get your inspiration?

I love works by Lucebert, Karel Appel, Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch, but I also like the work of Sam Drukker. I love to color out of the lines. You'll see that in my way of life and in my paintings. I paint from my heart. Preferably I let it happen, the warm colors flow and do their work. The result is always a surprise.



The artist at work

My paintings are made from feelings, so, by looking at them you will always discover something different. If you want to see more of my work, look on my Facebook page "RietjeArt"

What brings you to Bonaire?

"I love islands and their residents. I share with them my love for the sea and nature. I can watch for hours the sea and the activity of boats and people. The sea has a huge appeal to me. My husband always says: 'When you see the sea, you're going to shine.' We have already discovered many islands within and outside of Europe. And now I love to celebrate my 63th birthday on Bonaire. I am sure Bonaire will give me a lot of inspiration for my artwork."

When does the exhibition take place?

Robert Smaal from Bon Bida is excited about my paintings. Thanks to their efforts, the islanders and vacationers can get to know my work in Bon Bida from October 7 to 15. I hope they will enjoy my work as much as I do making it."

So, don't forget to pass by and look for these original works of art. If you would like a painting by Rietje on your own wall, it is possible. She is willing to sell and leave them behind if you are interested. ■

Justine Verschoor





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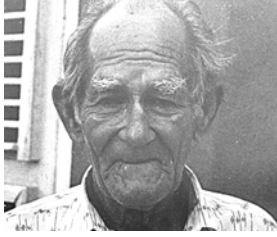


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"Nos Zjilea" and The Men Of The Sea at Mangazina di Rei

BONAIRE'S SEAMEN AND BOATBUILDERS

In the years of the 50s sailing and fishery was of great importance for the island. Bonaire has known different boat carpenters such as head master boat carpenter Jan Nicolaas Erasmus Craane a.k.a. "Kachi" Craane. Other very well-known boat carpenters were "Pa Bubu," "Tuchi" Martijn and "Chilan" Muller. They built boats such as the schooner, the sloop and other types of craft. Fishermen would go out to fish by the islands of Margarita and Las Roques and would return with different types of fish like groupers, tuna, mahi mahi (dorado) and much more. Nowadays the people of Bonaire still love to fish and swim. All these stories make a Bonairean very proud to be called a "Man of the Sea."



Etche Craane, boat builder

and also known as one of the volunteers who helped bring back the boat *Stormvogel*," is Mr. Johnny Craane. He will explain about the different parts of the boat and how to build one.

Also another very well-known phenomenon known as a real fisherman, Mr. Eddy Christiaan, will explain about certain types of delicious fishes and give you the opportunity to taste the fish. There will also be a live musical presentation by the local group, "Watapana," and the lovely music of the group, "Crème de la Crème."

As usual there will be the program, 'Kunuku Lifestyle Challenge,' for youngsters from eight to 14 years old who are interested in learning more about the culture, planting, healthy eating, exercising and entrepreneurship.

The Cultural Market cannot be missed with its local fresh products such as syrup of the local gourd, natural local juice "Made in Rincon," local art and much more. The kitchen opens at 10 in the morning.

The famous dance couple, Donny and Monique, will give demonstrations of different folkloric dances. "BYOF" will be present for the first time and will give an art performance.

Also as part of the program we will have the famous Elvis Martinus a.k.a. "Piskechi" (photo at right) who will give a presentation of the modern seaman.



photo by Izain J. Mercera

Join in the fun next Saturday



Elvis Martinus, a.k.a. "Piskechi"

'Nos Zjilea' is an ideal opportunity for a time out to enjoy with your family and friends.

For more information, visit the Facebook Fanpage of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei.

Come enjoy 'Nos Zjilea' with the Cultural Market Saturday, September 30th from 8 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei is located on the Rincon Road just before the entrance to Rincon.

Story by Izain J. Mercera



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Regatta 50



In the weeks leading up to the Golden Anniversary of the Bonaire Regatta, set for October 11-14, *The Reporter* will be reviewing the history and highlights of what some argue is the oldest organized regatta in the Caribbean.

Niki Tromp remained Mr. Bonaire Regatta from 1971 until his sudden death in 1992. In August 1992, in Curaçao, on his way to Venezuela for the promotion of the 25th edition of the Regatta, he was stricken by a heart attack and he passed away upon arrival at the hospital. He was just 54 years old and he had been the Regatta coordinator for 20 years. The 1992 Bonaire Regatta had lost its general coordinator. A challenge trophy for the overall winner of the yachts division, the **Copa Niki Tromp**, doubles as an annual tribute to this great man, who was instrumental in the success of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta.

In 1992 **Toontje Nicolaas**, a local politician and member of the board of the Lions Club, took over **Niki Tromp's** work. In that same year, the Regatta office was inaugurated – the **Kas di Regatta** on the Boulevard, overlooking the site where the Regattas are held.

In 1993 Bonairean **Judy Diaz**, became the successor to **Niki Tromp**. **Elvis Martinus**, as **Race Director**, and **Judy Diaz** embodied the fulfillment of **Niki Tromp's** dream-- Bonaireans in charge of the operational side of the Bonaire Regatta. **Judy** served as Regatta coordinator from 1993 until 1997.

In 1998 **Byron Tromp**, **Niki Tromp's** son, took over as the Regatta coordinator also representing the Bonaire Sailing Foundation (BSaF). **Elvis and Byron** went on to lead the Bonaire Regatta into the 21st century.

The sailing regatta, the oldest in the Caribbean, went through many changes. Up to 1994, it was organized from Playa Lechi and from the Sunset Beach Hotel. In 1995, it was relocated to the Plaza Resort for a few years. It returned for one year to the Sunset Beach Hotel before making its final move to the current location: the "Kas di Regata" at the Playa Pabou waterfront in 1999.

New categories were added. **Windsurfing**, in which local youths excel at top world level, was organized both at Sorobon and in the Kralendijk Bay. The youngest participants set sail in their tiny **Optimist boats** and the locally favorite category is the one of **Microboats**, propelled only by the wind and the shouts of their owners, captains who are forced to stay behind. Other categories saw their numbers dwindle: **beach cats have been absent** for many years and the **number of yachts has declined**, both due to the absence of participants from Venezuela as a result of the political situation in that country and due to stricter regulations imposed the past few years by custom authorities in Curaçao. Sadly, the partici-



Currently Budget Marine is spearheading an effort to gather all the traditional sail fishing boats still floatable. Many are in need of major repair. If you know of a boat or can help in the repair contact Pam at Budget Marine +599 717 3710 or email pam.teitel@budgetmarine.com. Budget Marine is providing the needed materials without charge. Hopefully future donations will cover the costs.

ation of **local Fishing Boats** became minimal but will be resurrected with vigor this year.

But, while regattas world-wide see their numbers of participants dwindle significantly and often are no longer on the calendar, the Bonaire Regatta is still going strong, maintaining satisfactory numbers of participants over the years, thanks to the addition of new categories.

Side-events have emerged in the course of the years: the **All-Nations Flag Parade**, the **Swim to Klein Bonaire**, the **Youth Football** and **International Softball Tournaments**, and the after race **Festival** has been expanded. Organizers,

officials and sponsors enjoy themselves at the annual **Working Boat Parade** and the **windup Boat Party**.

The celebration of half a century of Bonaire Regattas, is the legacy of the 'Velia' and the 'Sislin' thanks to the tireless efforts of its participants, organizers and sponsors. ■

Evert Bongers / G.D.





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MINDFUL EATING

Mindful Eating is the practice of eating mindfully. It means to be conscientious, focused, in-tune, and truly savor the experience of eating. Mindful eating can help you appreciate the tastes, textures, smells, sensations, and nutrients of foods. This practice creates a celebration of eating. Research has also shown that practicing mindful eating can help individuals avoid overeating through focusing on hunger and fullness cues. In turn, mindful eating can also lead to weight loss or weight maintenance.

Think of it this way. You have a bag of potato chips and you crash down on the couch after a long day and flip on the television. You start eating one chip and then the next and the next and suddenly the entire

bag is gone. It's as if you were eating on autopilot without any thought of that chip after chip. This is what mindless eating looks like.

Now let's do that over again, but this time practicing mindful eating. You have a bag of potato chips, but this time you sit down at the counter, free of television, computer, radio, newspaper, or any other distractions. Take notice of the small rumbling of your stomach as you open the bag of chips. You pour a few chips into a small bowl and grab the first one. You can feel that the texture is rough, lightweight, and notice the bit of grease on your fingers and grains of salt on the surface. Then you place the chip in your mouth and you are aware of the salty taste and the crisp crunch as you bite down. As you continue to eat 10 chips, you realize that the craving is gone. You don't feel the need to finish off the bowl. You have enjoyed your 10 chips and have fed that craving. Mindful eating employs full awareness of the eating experience.

Some tips to begin practicing mindful eating are to:

Eliminate distractions by turning off ipads, tablets, radio, T.V., computer, phone, and even books and magazines. Focus on eating.

Eat slowly. Some people find it helpful to count the number bites as they chew.

Breathe deeply before meals. Try taking 5-10 long breaths before diving in.

Mindful Eating

- 1 Choose a convenient mealtime when you won't be expected to socialize.
- 2 Eat slowly. Focus on each sensation of your first bite in turn: smell, sight, touch, sound, taste.
- 3 Immerse yourself in the richness of the practice of eating and try to eat your whole meal slowly.

Health Benefits:

- Reduced stress
- Improved digestive functioning
- Reduced overeating and weight gain

Why it works to reduce stress:

Taking time to appreciate the small things we often miss can liberate us from ruminating on our daily concerns.

Offer gratitude for your meal and thankfulness for the meal at hand.

Use all of your five senses when enjoying food.

Take notice of everything.

Be non-judgmental. Speak mindfully and compassionately. Avoid feelings of guilt or rigid rules of eating.

Try some of these tips the next time you sit down to eat a meal. Notice if you are feeling hungry. Be aware if you are feeling full and stop eating once you notice this cue. Notice tastes and textures. Mindful eating can help you decode your body's cues without those unnecessary feelings of guilt or shame.

So it's about using your senses when you eat. Try to take note of the taste, the smells, the textures, the sounds, and any other fun sensations. Eating is meant to be enjoyed!

Lucinda van der Wardt runs the Food and Vitality Dietitian practice at Bona Bida Health Center.

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A Garden? Just Do It



Gramoxone effects after 48 hours



Gramoxone effects after 5 days

POISONING THE SOIL

This morning a friend took me to his yard where he is busy building apartments. He told me how much of the weed killer Gramoxone he applied a short while ago to "clean" the yard. I was in shock. That soil is so poisoned now and no one who is going to live there will know how poisoned it is. So any fruit or just some tomatoes that pop up out of that soil can be dangerous to eat. I explained that to my friend and he was really astonished. For that reason I wrote this article. People should be aware of this kind of pollution and how we can damage our earth for the next generations and all life.

These days people use all kinds of stuff to kill weeds, unwanted trees and their roots, bugs on plants and in the soil. The more people tell me, very enthusiastically, what kind of dangerous products they used with, of course good results, the more I worry. Most of these people do not have any idea about these products and how to use them. They just buy and add or mix and spray. Whatever.

Because of this I did some research about one of the most used products nowadays on Bonaire, Gramoxone SL.20. Gramoxone is a fast acting non-selective contact herbicide for control of most fibrous rooted, grasses and annual broad leaf weeds. It is a Restricted Use Pesticide. The generic name for Gramoxone is Paraquat. It is exceedingly toxic to humans. Many cases of illness and/or death have been reported. The lethal ingestion dose of Paraquat in humans is only 35 mg/kg. Its half-life is measured in decades.

For your health and to protect life in the soil and to keep our soil healthy, if you decide to use this chemical read the label with attention.

So now you have the information about Gramoxone, a weed killer. But what happens to nature and us when using these products.

When nature is at its fullest, there is life everywhere in the soil. We don't see it all, but we all know it's there. What we

see is all that life living on earth. But all that life together with elements such as water, soil, air, and we humans who live in a certain area we call an ecosystem. For example, the sea, the jungle, a desert, mountains, all are ecosystems where life is living and dependent on each other.

When we add things to the soil, whatever it is, all living things in that area absorb it. Also water which we need to live, can get poisoned. To make it clear when you use Gramoxone to kill roots, this poison affects other plants and animals and bugs there. After a while you may plant another fruit tree or some vegetables there. And these plants absorb this poison, but not enough to make them die. After a while if you eat the fruits from these trees and plants and you too get these poisons in your body. Little by little, all other life in that soil gets sick and you can too. And others, who may not know that all that poison has been added to that soil and garden there, eat from it without knowing that instead of eating healthy they are eating poison hiding in their food.

All life is connected and has meaning to each other. Therefore, if we humans as the highest developed creations in nature, damage the soil with all kinds of poisons for whatever reason, we will pay the bill too.

So let's keep our gardens free from this poisonous stuff. Use nature friendly ways to garden. Consider that you eat from that same garden where you added poison. You inhale the gas from those poisons that you add around your house. Your children play in that soil and get these poisons on their skin. And think that all life in that soil will suffer from these poisons and may make our soil useless and lifeless for a long time.

So keep your garden healthy. Don't use harmful chemicals. ■

Story by Angliet, Nature Lover/ L.D.



DID YOU KNOW?



Last week, there were thousands of small floating jellyfish-like creatures floating in the waters around Bonaire.

Blue Buttons, *Porpita porpita*, are not actually jellies, but rather a colony of animals called **hydroids**. The **Portuguese Man 'O War** is another example of a colonial hydroid. The round, flat disk on the top of the Blue Button is called the **float**. It's full of gas so that it floats on the surface of the ocean. The tentacles are made up of eating, stinging and reproductive **zooids**. All of these zooids work together to survive. These colonies, only about an inch wide, float along in the surface currents and sometimes end up on beaches or along the coast by the thousands. Fortunately for us, their sting is not very toxic, although some people experience minor skin irritation when they encounter Blue Buttons.

They are found throughout the world's oceans and use their stinging zooids to sting and capture **planktonic** critters which they then consume. Their predators are **sea slugs and sea snails**. The reproductive zooids may be both male and female, so the colony is **hermaphroditic**. This is only one species of jelly-like organism among many that have frequented our waters in the past year.

Why do we keep seeing different species of jellies and other similar animals? One of the things I love about being a marine biologist is that it never gets dull. Every single time I go out, there's something to see and learn about and each new discovery makes me appreciate the beauty of nature.

Perhaps it's normal to see lots of different jellies throughout the year. Perhaps there's more to it than that.

In many parts of the world, the oceans are negatively impacted through dumping, overfishing, drilling and coastal development. Rivers bring sewage, sediments and pollution into the oceans as well. Many scientists warn that as the oceans become more polluted, as surface temperatures increase with climate change, and if overfishing continues, ocean ecosystems as we know them will change. Some call it the **slippery slope to slime** and warn about future oceans being comprised mostly of algae and jellies!

Bonaire has a long history of protecting its coral reefs and near shore environment and our coral reefs are thought to be among the best in the Caribbean. Let's keep up the good work and do everything we can at the local level to keep it that way. ■ Story by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist.

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WEEKENDS ONLY...

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

6-10 PM

6-10 PM

12-2 & 6-10 PM

What's Happening

Cruiseships

DAY	DATE	NAME	ARR/DEP	CAP	C.LINE
Tue	26-Sep	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL
Mon	2-Oct	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	RCCL
Tue	3-Oct	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL
Tue	10-Oct	Zenith	0700-1800	1828	CEL
Thu	12-Oct	Equinox	0700-1600	2850	CEL

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

- **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free
- **Bonaire Museum**—on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free
- **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon.** See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Monday-Friday. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101
- **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.
- **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681
- **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

REGULAR EVENTS

- **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.
- **Soldachi Tours**—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.
- **Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park)** Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Entry fee based on income level.
- **Nature Organization, STINAPA,** has frequent events— bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2017: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

- **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**—Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.
- **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market)** at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon
- **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei**—Usually the last Saturday of the month, 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina

- di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance
- **Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)**—every Saturday, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989
- **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket
- **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.
- **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

Mondays

- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950- Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.
- **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book, Reef Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

Wednesdays

- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.
- **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.
- **Chess Club** meets to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.
- **Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

Fridays

- **Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information

CLUBS and MEETINGS

- **Lions Club** meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.
- **Rotary** lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo

Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc,) NO MEETINGS on September 13 and 20. (Vacations)**

• Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: 12stepbonaire@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabena 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701- 9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.)

Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com. **Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk** – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at

ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Exhibitions

- **Coral Restoration Exhibit**—Terramar Museum
- **Stormvogel Salute to the Sailors** maritime photo exhibit, Plaza Resort, sponsored by Bonaire Marine Heritage Foundation and the Prins Bernard Cultural Funds.
- **Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoen Hill 19-** Call for appointment: 599 785-5002
- **Winfred Dania Exhibit**—Kaya Amsterdam 23, next to KVK.now through October 31. Hours are 9 am-2 pm and 4 pm -8 pm.
- **Rietje Smal Art Exhibit**, Bon Bida Spa and Gym, during Bon Bida open hours, Oct. 7-15, free. See story on page 12.

Close In Events

Sunday, October 1– Duo Xtreme Mountain Bike Race



Saturday, October 7—Dive Friends Quarterly Clean up Dive. Check in for volunteers will begin at 9:45am at DIVE INN, with a briefing for all volunteers at 10 am. South Pier to be cleaned

Sunday, October 8 —Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire at 9am. Be there at 8:30am. \$15 Donation

Wednesday-Saturday, October 11-14 -Bonaire Regatta #50.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 25		00:48	06:13	11:23	17:22		
		-0.01 ft	0.43 ft	0.25 ft	0.84 ft	6:24	18:29
Tue 26		01:30	06:55	11:58	17:59	6:24	18:28
		-0.03 ft	0.42 ft	0.26 ft	0.86 ft		
Wed 27		02:08	07:32	12:31	18:34	6:24	18:28
		-0.03 ft	0.41 ft	0.25 ft	0.87 ft		
Thu 28	Last Quarter	02:44	08:06	13:05	19:10	6:24	18:27
		-0.03 ft	0.41 ft	0.25 ft	0.87 ft		
Fri 29		03:19	08:38	13:41	19:47	6:24	18:26
		-0.01 ft	0.40 ft	0.24 ft	0.85 ft		
Sat 30		03:54	09:11	14:20	20:24	6:24	18:26
		04:28	09:45	15:07	21:05		
Sun 01		05:00	10:22	16:03	21:49	6:24	18:25
		05:32	11:02	17:12	22:40		
Mon 02		06:03	11:47	18:35	23:42	6:24	18:24
		06:36	12:34	20:03			
Tue 03		07:12	13:24	21:23		6:24	18:22
		07:45	14:15	22:31			
Wed 04	Full Moon	08:12	15:06	23:28		6:24	18:23
		08:42	15:06	23:28			
Thu 05		09:12	15:58			6:24	18:22
		09:36	16:50				
Fri 06		10:00	17:42			6:24	18:21
		10:24	18:34				
Sat 07		10:48	19:26			6:24	18:21
		11:12	20:18				
Sun 08		11:36	21:10			6:25	18:21
		12:00	22:02				
Mon 09		12:24	23:00			6:25	18:20
		12:48	23:52				

Flotsam and jetsam (Continued from page 3)

your assemblyman or complain at your hotel. Last week the local government sent a notice requesting comments to set guidelines.

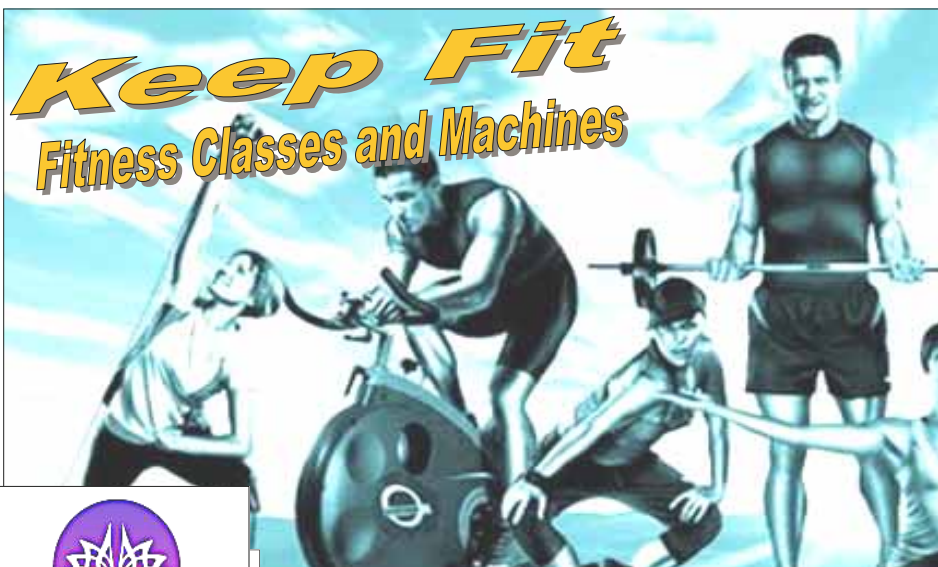


► On, September 15, Bonaire formalized the operations of the new state-of-the-art Control Tower at Flamingo International Airport. This completes a phase of the 15-year Master Plan for expansion of the airport.

Michael Nicolaas, CEO of Bonaire International Airport (BIA) NV noted, "Our vision at BIA is to become the Gateway to the Economy of Bonaire, and this tower is a significant milestone on our journey." The new tower will be known as Flamingo Tower and is fully compliant with the International Safety Standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). A staff of seven people will handle the current traffic at the airport. The Air Traffic Service will be provided by The Dutch Caribbean Air Navigation Service Provider (DC-ANSP), the Air Navigation Service Provider responsible for the Air Traffic Services (ATS) within the Curaçao Flight Information Region (FIR).

The tower will be operational from 06:00 - 23:00hrs or the lat flight.

The relocated Control Tower location gives an improved line of sight, providing the air traffic controllers a better view of the entire maneuvering area of the aerodrome used for the take-off, landing and taxiing of aircraft. ■ *G./L.D.*



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ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

Pet Of The Week



Old Kouchi



New and improved Kouchi

A New and Improved "Drop Off" Cage
 In 2011, the Animal Shelter Bonaire erected a "drop off" cage (*Kouchi pa Bestia*) just outside the rear entrance gate of the Animal Shelter Bonaire. The cage allowed for found or stray dogs and cats to be put into a safe place at any time of the day or night. It also provided the opportunity to surrender animals, no questions asked, rather than dump them in the mondi or by the side of the road. The "kouchi" was used very frequently over the last six years and it became evident that an "upgrade" was needed.

Volunteers recently got together and built a "new and improved" *Kouchi pa Bestia* in the same location. The new *kouchi* has two separate compartments with water bowls and is fortified, larger and secure so that all sizes of puppies, dogs, kittens and cats will be protected and

safe. The drop off cage is checked throughout the day and is also checked first thing every morning for any animals that may have been brought in during the night.

If you find an animal or wish to surrender an animal during hours that the Shelter is not open, please make use of this safe and secure *Kouchi pa Bestia*. The animal will be moved into the Shelter compound as soon as Shelter staff arrive on premises.

For any questions or information contact the Animal Shelter Bonaire at 717-4989/701-4989 or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

■ Story by Jane Madden-Disko. Photos by Luvinia Rodriguez



HANDSOME JERRY

It would be hard to find a more handsome young cat than Jerry...and even harder to find one as sweet! He is about six or seven months old and is one of the most friendly and laid back kittens at the Shelter. He loves everybody...humans and other cats. Jerry is also a "hugger"! When you pick him up he wraps his front arms around your neck and gives you a warm hug with some "head bunting."

Head bunting, which most people mistakenly refer to as head butting, is behavior that domestic cats share with their wild counterparts. Since cats are usually relaxed and friendly while bunting, people rightfully assume that it's a sign of affection or acceptance into the feline's domain. But Dr. Meghan Herron of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Ohio State University, says that bunting is a bit more nuanced. "Rather than territorial marking or 'claiming' someone, as is commonly thought, cats do this to mark something as safe — sort of like leaving a signal of comfort and safety. So you could think of it as a sign that they are 'trusting' that person or environment."

Jerry is healthy, sterilized and vaccinated and just waiting for the opportunity to "share the love" with a human family. He adjusts well to new environments and would be a welcome companion for a single cat home or one with additional feline occupants. You are welcome to visit Jerry and all the other Shelter residents at Kaminda Lagun 26, Tuesday through Friday 9 am-noon and 3-5 pm, Saturdays 8 am-3 pm non-stop. ■ Jane Madden-Disko. Photo by Luvinia Rodriguez

Bonaire Cleans Up

Bonaire has the well deserved reputation of being the cleanest island in the Caribbean thanks to its waste management company, SELIBON, motivated residents and volunteer trash collectors. Volunteers personally experienced the effort it takes to keep our island clean on Saturday September 16th, when the annual Clean up Bonaire Day was held. Bonaire residents personally worked to clean up their neighborhoods, to give back to the community and accomplish shared goals by working together.

SELIBON and Boneiru Duradero organized the work with the support of local companies, NGOs and individuals.

The result: **3,550 kg of trash** collected by approximately **350 participants**, slightly fewer participants this year than last. See photo at right.

Bonaire has become a lot cleaner, thanks to their efforts. SELIBON NV periodically designates the most polluted areas on Bonaire, giving them extra attention during Bonaire Clean Up Day. Volunteers were active from Esmeralda to Washikemba and Rincon since trash seems to spread.

The most polluted areas were in the residential areas and next to "busy" roads. In addition to the increased number of illegal dump sites, increased littering was mainly made up of beer bottles, which seem to be thrown out of the car and thus end up in on the road shoulders. Rolando Marin, of Tourism Corporation Bonaire, has a special technique for removing these bottles from the vegetation. He plucks the beer bottles from the bushes with a long stick, making the clean up a "challenging sport." Much of the collected waste



came in from the sea. The Bonaire Junior. Rangers collected more than 90 car tires around the pier at Wilhelmina Square.

The clean up is also supported by local companies, such as Best Brands Bonaire and Van den Tweel Supermarket Bonaire, through sponsorship of food and drink. Bonaire can be proud of the large volume of volunteers, companies and institutions that make Bonaire Clean Up Day possible every year. SELIBON, Boneiru Duradero, Fundashon Tene Boneiru Limpi and Nos Ta Biba di Naturalesa want to thank everyone for their amazing effort ■ Boneiru Duradero release/ G.D.



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THE STARS HAVE IT

Early October 2017

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You will get out of shape easily if you don't keep on top of things. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Use your added discipline to get what you want. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) If you haven't already, don't be afraid to start your own small business on the side. Don't blow situations out of proportion. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Be careful not to exaggerate when interacting with your lover. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades. Try spending the day catching up on any responsibilities that need to be taken care of. Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may find that someone you live with may be irritable; you're best to leave them alone. Travel will be to your advantage; however, it might be expensive. Channel your energy into projects that will enhance your home. You will be able to work with fine detail this week. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may want to pull out some of those unfinished project you've got tucked away. You won't be able to keep a secret. Your business sense will be leading you in a direction that indicates more travel and communication. Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You must watch your tendency to spend whatever you make. Don't deny yourself this week. Communication will be your strong point and you should be able to persuade others to see things your way. Try to spend time with those having

similar interests. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Avoid letting children and friends borrow. Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Consider making pleasure trips or participating in entertainment that will require energy. It's time you let your true feelings out. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it. You may end up being blamed if anything goes wrong. Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. Your lucky day will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Try to be understanding. You must not let fellow workers take advantage of your fine talents. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. Try to get others to stand behind your good judgment. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. You're in a high cycle for romance. Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. Your lucky day will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Family trips or projects should be on your mind. You must be extremely careful not to let relatives or friends interfere in your personal life. You have bent over backward trying to help them and now it's time to let them stand on their own two feet. Channel your energy wisely and you can score points with the boss. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Romance is likely if you participate in unusual forms of entertainment. Too much talk might lead to hassles. You may have a hidden adversary who would love to prove you wrong. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday. ■ *SunSigns Horoscope*



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Saturn and the Moon

Have you ever seen a really bright star next to the Moon? Sometimes that "star" often turns out to be a planet. And when that happens...we call it a **conjunction**. That happens whenever things come together in the sky.

A conjunction is like a stellar party. And the next party in the Bonaire Sky Park is between our Moon and the **planet Saturn**. And it happens just around the time the newest *Bonaire Reporter* appears all around Bonaire.

On Sunday September 24th, you will have found our two major players in the evening sky, the Moon and Saturn. The Moon was really easy to find after dark since it was in its **waxing phases**. Starting that Sunday night (September 24) you can see it right after dark as a **waxing crescent** low in the southwest. But where is Saturn? It's a little tougher challenge. Saturn is the farthest planet you can see with the naked eye so it doesn't stand out like **Jupiter** or **Venus**. But this month it is still brighter than any other star in this part of the sky. Look for Saturn about 20 degrees above the south-southwestern horizon. Saturn will just look like an ordinary yellow star, but with one major difference. **Planets don't twinkle quite as much as stars do**, so check it out and see if it gives off a steady light.

You can compare Saturn to the bright red star, **Antares**. This is the brightest star in the **constellation Scorpius the Scorpion** and Antares definitely twinkles!

Other than the occasional near-Earth **asteroid**, the Moon is our closest neighbor in space. The Moon is about 240,000 miles from Earth and looks so big and bright because it reflects the light of the **Sun**. Of course the Moon doesn't always look like a crescent. As the days go on, the Moon travels around the Earth and it changes our perspective on the parts lit by the Sun. So day by day, night by night, the light grows from right to left. This is called **waxing**.

Once we get to a full Moon, and we can't wax any more, the moon will get darker on the right side and day by day, night by



night, the darkness will spread from right to left. This is called **waning**. The whole process takes about 29 and a half days. And then it repeats itself all over again.

When the Moon orbits the Earth and changes its phases, it also shifts its position in the sky. So if we move forward one night at a time, on September 25th and... on September 26th the Moon will have appeared to be really close to Saturn that night. They will have been less than three degrees apart, and that most definitely counts as a conjunction.

If you have a pair of binoculars, aim them at the conjunction and see if you can fit both the Moon and Saturn in the same view. They will still be a little too far away to catch them both at one time through a telescope, but you can point at them individually and see the craters of the Moon in amazing detail. Then shift over to observe the most amazing planet you'll ever see. Spectacular Saturn with the breathtakingly beautiful rings!

The conjunction - and cosmic dance party - won't last long. By the **evening of September 27th** the Moon will have continued on its way around the Earth and moved away from Saturn.

If you didn't read this story in time to see it don't worry, the Moon will be back around for one more pass of Saturn on October 23rd and 24th. It's an amazing universe we live in. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*

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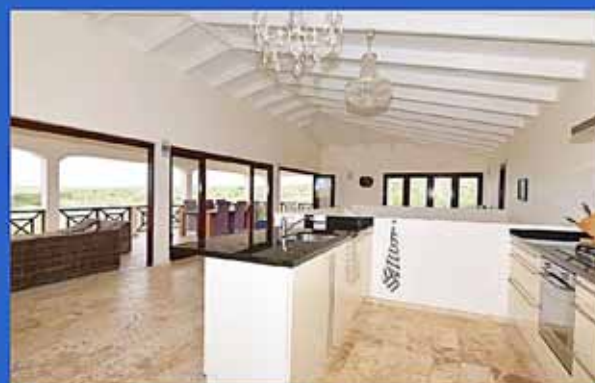


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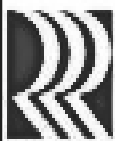
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